



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
GREEN BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SCOTTSDALE ONE CIVIC CENTER
7447 E. INDIAN SCHOOL RD #125
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

MARCH 11, 2008

PRESENT: Michele Cohen, Chair (telephonic) (departed at 4:08 p.m.)
Daniel Aiello, Janus II Environmental
Joan Baron, Baron Studio
Tamara Bennett, aka Green
Lance Donatello, Scottsdale citizen
Kevin Edwards, Edwards Design Group
Lee Feliciano, Valley of the Sun Solar
Jesse Henson, Kyocera Solar
Alisa McMahon, Scottsdale Citizen
Douglas Patriquin, Kimley Horn
Beverly Westgaard, AZ Envir. Strategic Alliance
Clark Worthley, Case Remodeling

ABSENT: Ron Hand, Vice Chair
Laurie Jackson, DMB Associates
DeeJaye Lockwood, Keller Williams
Julie Stanton, Stanton Consulting

STAFF: Dennis Enriquez
Anthony Floyd
Michael Clack
Vic Valliere
Joe Miller

**OTHER
VOLUNTEERS:** James McCay, EQAB (Acting Chair from 4:08 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Rick Heffernan

1. Call to Order

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A formal roll call confirmed the presence of members as noted above.

3. Dennis Enriquez - New Green Building Program, Committee Liaison

Chair Cohen welcomed Dennis Enriquez. Mr. Enriquez is the new staff liaison for the GBAC and the Expo Planning Committee. He has been with the City for 17 years.

Chair Cohen welcomed Tamara Bennett as the newest Committee Member. Committee Member Bennett said she has lived in Scottsdale since 1968, and has been interested in green building her whole life.

4. Recognition of Guests (Morrison Institute)

a. Discussion of report: *Sustainability for Arizona*

Mr. Heffernan, a policy analyst at ASU's Morrison Institute, discussed the latest edition of the Arizona Policy Series, which is focused on sustainability. The report was created in partnership with the Global Institute of Sustainability, and identifies sustainability as the biggest issue facing Arizona.

Contributions from a number of authors provide a breadth of perspectives on what sustainability is. Although sustainability is a global issue, it is hard to act internationally and nationally. The report focuses primarily on what can be done at the state and local levels. Arizona can be a model for sustainability thinking, because residents are already used to adapting to scarcity of resources such as water.

The report advocates striking a balance between the three aspects of sustainability, society, the economy, and the environment, so that one does not benefit at the expense of the others. Public policies should boost all of these things together.

According to complexity theory, the more complex a system gets, the more interdependent it becomes, and in ways that nobody expects. The connection between water and electricity is a good example. Pumping, treating, and transporting water requires electricity, while water is required to produce electricity. These interdependencies need to be considered when addressing sustainability.

Sustainability depends on good public policies to get started. No legislative act is perfect but one example of a good policy is Minnesota's Livable Communities Act in which public/private partnerships funded grants and incentives for developers to transform blighted areas into parks and wetlands, and create sustainable mixed-use developments. The Navajo Flexcrete Project uses aerated concrete blocks from recycled materials to create houses that are appropriate to their environment and demand less energy.

Much of global growth is projected to occur in arid lands. Arizona has perhaps the biggest portfolio of research on arid lands of any place in the world. Arizona's fast-growing cities are poised to become test beds for sustainable solutions. Cool pavement is being used here to reduce the heat island effect and toxic storm water runoff. The Tubes in the Desert project uses algae to feed on carbon in contaminated water, producing bio-diesel.

Committee Member Baron asked Mr. Heffernan to identify reasons why transformational thinking is not occurring. Mr. Heffernan responded that many grass-roots efforts seemed unlikely to succeed initially but they gained widespread support once people were educated about them.

In response to Committee Member Westgaard, Mr. Heffernan said that the business community is ready to lead the way in many respects, but they need incentive and assurance from public policy, especially at the State level.

Committee Member Westgaard said there seems to be many interested parties to making something happen, but the focus is missing.

Committee Member Feliciano said H.B. 2766, the Omnibus Energy Act, is probably the most comprehensive piece of legislation related to energy that has been introduced to date. It is stalled right now partly because of the lack of support from homebuilders, utilities and municipalities.

5. Discussion of document: Strategic Goals for City of Scottsdale as Related to the Built Environment.

Chair Cohen reported that GBAC's recommendation was passed on to EQAB. It is on the agenda to discuss at the next EQAB meeting on March 19.

Chair Cohen asked Mr. McCay to chair the remainder of the meeting in her absence.

6. Discussion of EQAB meeting of February 20, 2008

Mr. McCay updated progress of the Energy Plan, saying Mr. Valliere's evaluation of the Energy Office recommendation is due on April 16. The feedback has been positive so far.

EQAB is currently dealing with the air quality ordinances mandated by the EPA, and assisting Scottsdale to comply with them. Mayor and Council are going to vote on the ordinances after conducting two public meetings.

Mr. McCay noted that the Energy Plan Update contained an educational component. The City Manager's philosophy is that every employee should be thinking sustainability while doing their jobs. The Energy Advisory Committee viewed a sample online sustainability training program called SEEC at its last meeting for informational purposes. The program is an example of one that could potentially be used to train City employees about sustainability.

7. Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Worthley explained that his comment under item 9 referred to any building, not just green buildings.

COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTGAARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 12, 2008 MINUTES OF THE GREEN BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS AMENDED. COMMITTEE MEMBER BARON SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF TWELVE (12) TO ZERO (0).

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Report and discussion on government legislation related to renewable energy and green building.

Mr. Floyd reported that the Central Arizona Homebuilders Association attempted to put restrictions on local green building programs in the Omnibus Energy Act. There is opposition to the amendment. Since the comprehensive Energy Act appears to have stalled, portions of it may be introduced as separate initiatives.

10. Presentation, discussion and possible vote on recommendation to EQAB on Green Building Annual Report.

Mr. Floyd reviewed green home permit activity from 1998 to 2007, noting a drop in permits in 2007, possibly the result of the rating checklist having become more stringent, as well as the downturn in the economy.

Committee Member Edwards felt that the drop was something to be concerned about, and suggested agendizing discussion on strategies to reverse that trend. Committee Member Bennett said she heard from an architect recently who was told by a Scottsdale employee that the City no longer offers a residential green permit program. The problem seems to be partly one of perception.

The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to make note that the stringency of the checklist was increased at the end of 2006.

Committee Member Edwards suggested that maybe education efforts are focused a little too much on the public, and not enough on the City staff.

Mr. McCay suggested using the data in the Sustainability Indicators Report.

Mr. Floyd noted that there has been an increase in photovoltaic permits issued in Scottsdale for both residential and commercial construction. He also had numbers for solar hot water permits, but as many residents do not apply for permits, information that is more reliable may be available from the utility companies.

Mr. Floyd said the information would be assembled into a report along with a summary of outreach activities.

Mr. Enriquez explained that the GBAC would vote on the report only if it felt the need to. It is a staff report intended for informational purposes only.

11. Discussion and possible vote on recommendations to EQAB regarding ways that the Green Building Advisory Committee and EQAB can provide information and assistance to the Economic Vitality Department to aid in recruiting sustainable technology businesses to Scottsdale.

Mr. McCay suggested that the Education Committee take up this issue.

12. Discussion to revise "Green Building: Home Remodeling Guidelines" booklet.

Mr. Floyd said the City was determined not to form any more subcommittees. Instead, staff is preparing a report to present to the GBAC.

13. Update and discussion of future Green Building Expos.

Committee Member Edwards reported that it is likely that the Expo would move towards non-profit status. It has gotten so large and successful that it no longer fits the formula for everyday operations in the City. The current set up makes it difficult for other cities to contribute funding to what is essentially a Scottsdale event. The process has become very awkward and even some basic decisions require Council approval. The intention is to move it into a non-profit to keep it as balanced and as all-inclusive as it has been in the past.

Committee Member Aiello inquired whether the Expo would still have an official relationship to the GBAC. Committee Member Edwards indicated that it would not. Mr. Enriquez added that non-profit status would allow for a lot more flexibility. The Expo Planning Committee would be dissolved.

In response to Committee Member Henson, Committee Member Edwards said he would hope that the GBAC would be getting updated monthly on the Expo's activities. The members of the GBAC have always helped drive the Expo and he wants to keep it in its current form as much as possible. The best way to do that is to become a non-profit.

Committee Member Aiello inquired if the City of Scottsdale would be a partner or a sponsor. Mr. Enriquez responded that it could go either way. Committee Member Edwards explained that the arrangement would likely be similar to the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, which works under the City umbrella, but is actually an independent entity.

14. Report on and discussion of effectiveness of Lecture Series in expanding Green Building awareness in our community, including videotaping of lectures and previews for City Cable 11.

Committee Member Edwards said airing the lecture series on TV encourages better content. Five lectures have been taped so far. The Committee briefly discussed ideas for making the videos more widely accessible to the public, including online distribution and making copies available at the library.

15. Future Education Projects

- a. Status report on and discussion of feasibility of solar project at Desert Mountain High School.

Committee Member Henson said the Desert Mountain High School solar project has been tabled. The project was implemented at a Fountain Hills school, however.

- b. Discussion of additional educational projects to increase public awareness of green building.

Committee Member Henson related several new ideas for educational projects. Ideas included using career days at high schools to illustrate how sustainability could be a career focus. That experience could be used to build a relationship with the schools that could eventually lead to demonstrating what can be done to teach sustainability in classrooms. The work group is also considering how to react to queries from schools that are looking for sustainability curricula.

In response to an inquiry from Committee Member Edwards, Committee Member Henson said the solar project faced problems from both the purchasing end and in coordinating between the School District and the City.

Committee Member Aiello noted that the Fountain Hills case likely fared better because the company that donated the materials and services connected directly with the School District, instead of getting the municipal government involved.

16. Report on and discussion of current projects to facilitate awareness of Scottsdale's Green Building Program.

None.

17. Summary of current events.

None.

18. Committee Member suggestions for green building topics on future agendas.

Committee Member Westgaard requested a status update on Design Day, and suggested exploring the possibility of providing mentoring to other municipalities in initiating green building programs. She also requested a discussion on the City's vision for the GBAC following the reduction of its responsibilities.

Committee Member Baron requested inviting City staff to attend the GBAC meetings in order to learn more about green building. Committee Member Feliciano noted that since much of the discussion is administrative, it is doubtful that they would benefit much from it unless it was tightly targeted.

19. Updates and reminders

- a. Next GBAC meeting - April 8, 2008.
- b. Next EQAB meeting - March 19, 2008.
- c. Next Green Building Lecture - Water Conservation - April 3, 2008.
- d. Next Solar Lecture - March 20, 2008.

20. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V-Tronics, Inc.